

## **To Friends everywhere,**

Japan Yearly Meeting was held November 20th to 21st under the theme of "Faith and Practice - Living with God" at Tokyo Meeting House. Friends from five Monthly Meetings attended. Taisoo Kim Watson as the representative of Asia Pacific West Section Executive Committee and Drew Lawson from the Australia Yearly Meeting attended the Yearly Meeting as well as the retreat which was held on 19th. We were filled with grateful depth of faith. We found each Meeting faced difficulty not only financially but in holding worship and we prayed for God's guidance to lead us with passionate faith. Our faith led us to start the rebuilding plan for Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting House.

After extensive renovations on the building, Friends Center is receiving visitors from abroad with a newly appointed superintendent. In the first session we shared the Peace Testimony of Friends in Japan Yearly Meeting in the past fifty years. Friends found the important role of forgiveness in peace building that individual acts of forgiveness are the basis of building the relationship of mutual understanding. We remembered the Friend who contributed to the movement by not paying tax related to military spending.

The evening session was shared by three Friends: The Future of Japan Yearly Meeting, cultivating next generations, the importance of Japanese Friends in the Section, supporting monthly meetings and each individual Friend. Following the Yearly Meeting, the Nitobe Memorial Lecture was given by Drew Lawson, Friends Spiritual Nurturer, under the title of "Movings of Divine Love". Drew shared with us depth of his living faith through John Woolman's letters of seeking the love of God and reminded us of the importance in continuous search of what it means to be a Friend.

*In Friendship,*

**Kazuko Kagami**

*Clerk, Japan Yearly Meeting*

